

Managing flood releases at Corps dams and reservoirs in California

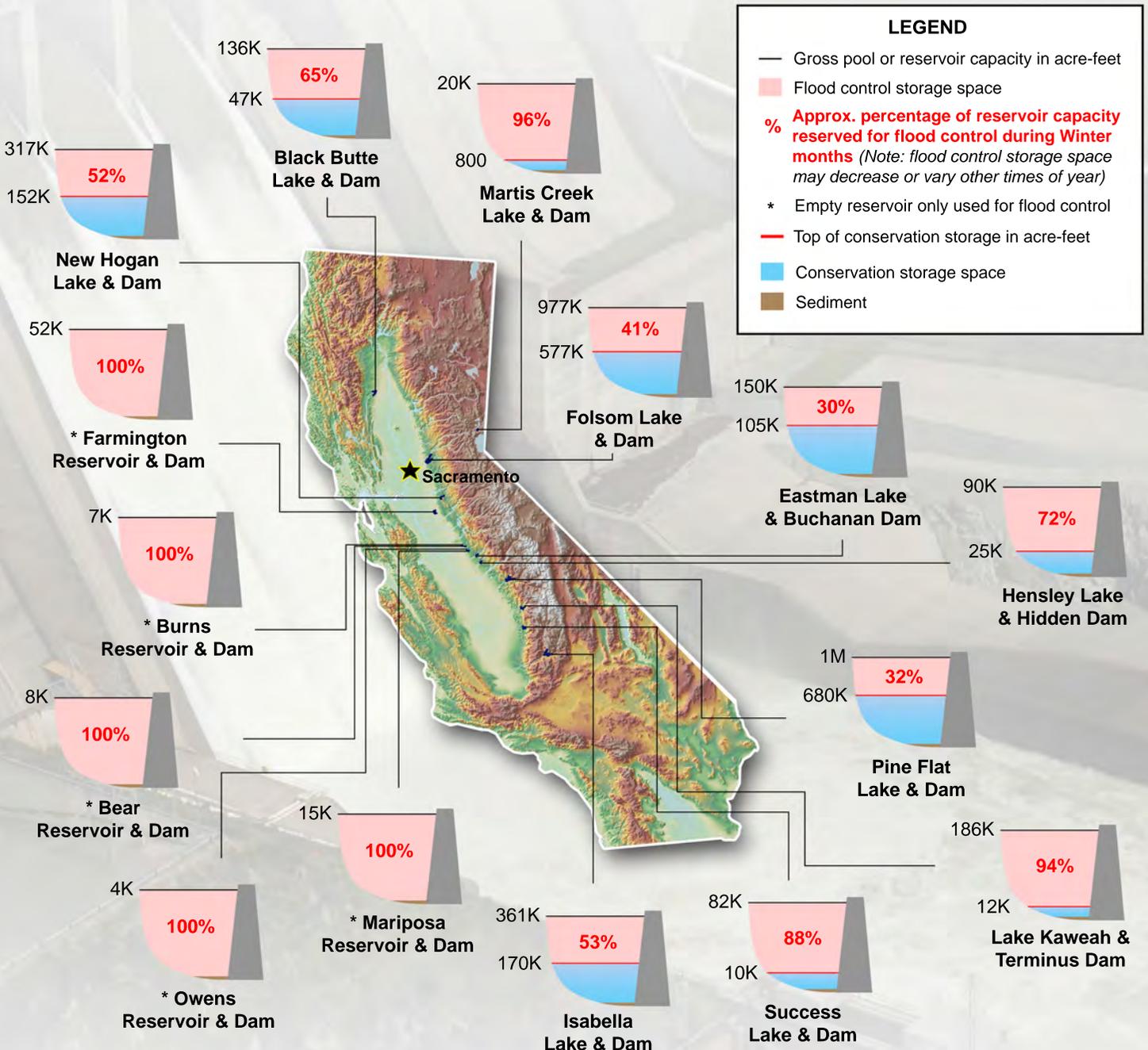


Water releases at Folsom Dam, Calif. (Credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

California finally caught a break from its record four year drought in early 2016 when a series of storms and precipitation helped replenish some of the states depleted reservoirs. In fact, agency water managers anticipated so much water and runoff at reservoirs like Folsom Lake that they made releases to reduce the risk of flooding and threat to public safety.

Knowing when to conserve water and release water can be a difficult balancing act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District has developed water control manuals in coordination with local, state and federal partners that provide climate and science-based guidelines on when to release water, typically when water levels reach the top of the conservation pool and enter the flood control storage space.

The graphic below shows water management guidelines for the 14 dams we manage in order to reduce flood risk in California's Central Valley. Also shown is Folsom Dam, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.



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